

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P351972WO/LFC	FOR FURTHER ACTION <small>see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</small>	
International application No. PCT/GB2 004 /004176	International filing date (day/month/year) 01/10/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 03/10/2003
Applicant CARROLL AUTOLOAD LIMITED		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

☐ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

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Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Mixing apparatus comprising a batch mixing vessel (45) with an inlet (40) to receive constituent material, an agitation assembly for mixing the constituents and an outlet to convey batches of the mixed is provided. The apparatus includes means (120) for pressurizing the vessel to assist in evacuation of the mix, and a conduit (210) through which the mix is conveyed. A single pneumatic source is used both to pressurize the mixing vessel and to drive a jet pump (62) comprising the batch loading means. During the mixing cycle, the compressor used to discharge the finished mix is generally idle. It has been discovered, that this compressor can be used during these periods to drive a jet pump to load the mixing vessel. Therefore, manual loading is avoided and can be achieved such that the mixing cycle time is not interrupted.

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-12

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-12

Mixing apparatus with single pneumatic source to charge and discharge the vessel

2. claims: 13-15

Spherical mixing vessel

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B28C5/12 B28C5/46 B28C7/16 B01F15/02 B01F13/04
 B65D88/04 F16J12/00 F16J13/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B28C B01F B65D F16J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/010792 A1 (JOHNSON KENNETH A ET AL) 16 January 2003 (2003-01-16)	1,4,8-11
Y	paragraph [0002]	12
	paragraph [0037] - paragraph [0044]	
	paragraph [0058] - paragraph [0060]	
A	figures 3,6,8,10,11A,11B,12	2,3,5-7

Y	US 6 354 726 B2 (FOERSTER WERNER) 12 March 2002 (2002-03-12)	12
A	column 1, paragraph 7 - paragraph 9 column 8, line 48 - column 9, line 18 claim 1 figure 1	1-11

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 January 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 04 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Real Cabrera, R

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 908 240 A (HOOD MAX GEORGE) 1 June 1999 (1999-06-01) column 1, line 4 - line 6 column 2, line 1 - line 17 column 2, line 65 - column 3, line 6; figures 1,2 -----	1-12

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003010792	A1	16-01-2003	US	2002017534 A1	14-02-2002
			US	2001023875 A1	27-09-2001
			US	2001002026 A1	31-05-2001
			US	6098843 A	08-08-2000
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			WO	03093118 A1	13-11-2003
			US	2003192920 A1	16-10-2003
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			AT	252516 T	15-11-2003
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			EP	1375414 A2	02-01-2004
			EP	1171376 A1	16-01-2002
			JP	2002533275 T	08-10-2002
			WO	0039021 A1	06-07-2000

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			EP	1120216 A2	01-08-2001
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			AU	2780795 A	25-01-1996
			WO	9600640 A1	11-01-1996
			GB	2303562 A ,B	26-02-1997
			HK	1001492 A1	19-06-1998
